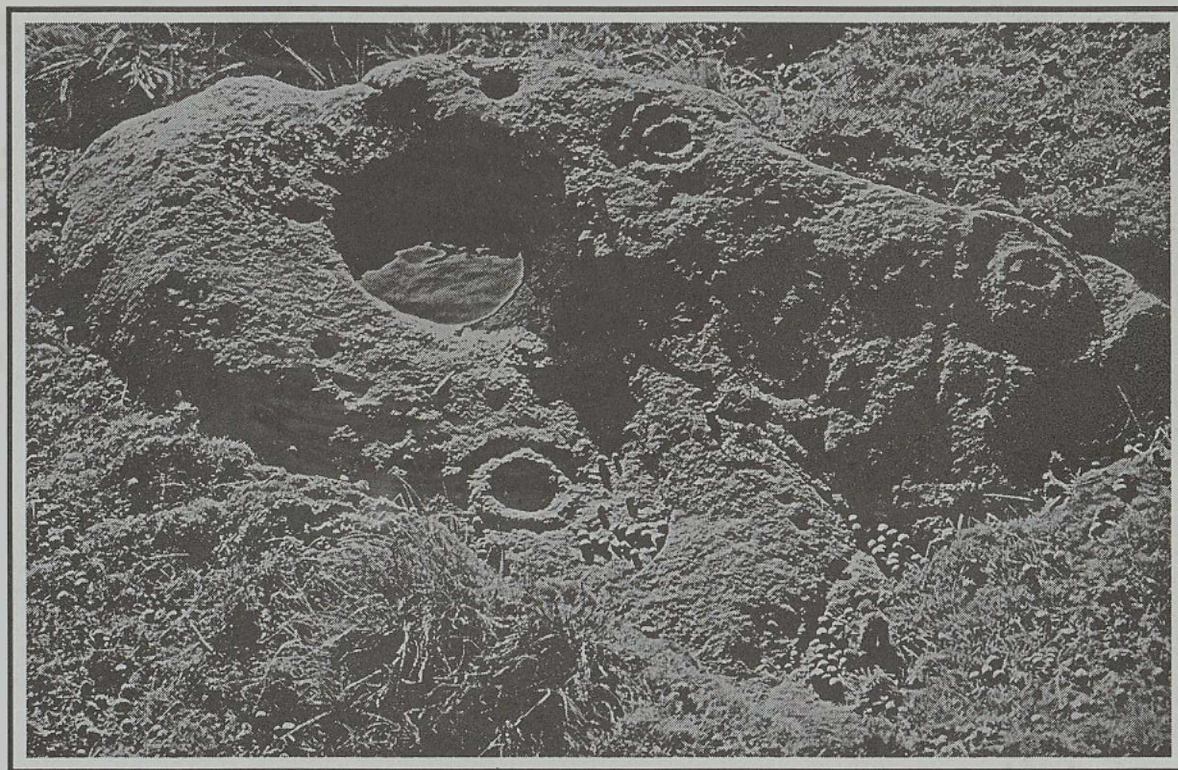


NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGY

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The Eel Hill Rock, Barningham Moor, County Durham (Photo © Sue Brophy).

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**NORTHERN
ARCHAEOLOGY**

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Editors

David McOmish
&
Peter Topping

NORTHUMBERLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

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Front cover: The Eel Hill rock art site (Photo © Sue Brophy).

THE NORTHUMBERLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

THE NORTHUMBERLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP (NAG) exists to provide opportunities for members of the public to take part in archaeological activities relating primarily to the study of the archaeology of Northumberland and surrounding areas. NAG undertakes its own fieldwork projects and occasionally supports other work undertaken by members. A lecture programme, social events and a series of excursions are organised each year, and members receive *Northern Archaeology*. *Northern Archaeology* is also available by subscription to non-members.

MEMBERSHIP. All enquiries about membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary at the address below. Membership for 2002-3 costs £12 (single), £15 (joint or family) or £2 (student or unemployed, not including a copy of *Northern Archaeology*).

NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGY is the NAG journal and includes a variety of papers concentrating principally on the archaeology of Northumberland and adjacent areas. Occasional special editions are published to cover particular themes. All communications regarding contributions to the journal should be addressed to the Editor at the address below, or c/o English Heritage, 24 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge, CB2 2BU. All potential contributors are encouraged to consult the Editor as early as possible when considering the preparation of a paper. Enquiries about back numbers (many volumes are still available, though some are now in very short supply) should be addressed to the Secretary at the address below.

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Editorial

It is with a strong sense of *déjà vu* that one of us (PT) returns to the role of editor of Northern Archaeology (NA), having been one of the original two founding editors of this august journal for its first 5 issues, published between 1980 and 1983 (when it appeared twice per year). NA had grown out of NAGNews, a small bulletin which PT had been asked to develop by Colin Burgess, NAG's Founder and original archaeological director, in 1977 and which had carried a number of useful articles. This little publication was very much a make do and mend team effort, with a number of Colin's Job Creation staff dragooned into assisting the editor, with Lorna Rimmer creating the typewritten texts as hard copy for PT to literally paste in the hand drawn illustrations. It was then a case of several days merrily xeroxing the master copy to create the print run. What a blessing DTP would have been in the 1970's. Happily, NAGNews still appears on an irregular basis some 20 years on, mostly to publish interim reports or other matters of immediate concern to the NAG membership, but is now mercifully easier to produce using DTP software.

As one suspects is the case with most journals, NA in the early days had a struggle to attract contributions, but those that were submitted became useful pieces of research which found a interested readership. NA strove to promote fieldwork and research in northern Britain, although at times did increase the definition of its catchment area to include subject material in the '*northern hemispheres*' to justify the inclusion of one of Colin Burgess's

Portuguese fieldwork reports. NA also carved a particularly useful role for itself as a platform to publish fieldwork and research by NAG's amateur archaeologists who might have found it difficult to publish their work in one of the more 'academic' journals. Indeed, one of NAG's great strengths as an organisation has been to blend a core of professional archaeologists with the great majority of ordinary members whose dedication and skills have created a truly successful amalgam capable of undertaking projects ranging from Hebridean Neolithic/Bronze Age settlements, Cheviot hillforts and settlements, cursus monuments in North Yorkshire to the chambered tombs of the Evora Region of Portugal.

David McOmish joined NAG to help excavate the unenclosed settlement at Linhope Burn in 1989 from his strong interest in Borders archaeology and has remained a member ever since. His interests lie in the Iron Age, particularly with hillforts, and his current personal research is focussing upon the classic All Cannings Cross settlement complex in Wiltshire. Pete Topping, who is also NAG's current Archaeological Director, joined NAG as a boy archaeologist in 1972/3 (when it was founded) to go and help dig the site at Kilellan Farm on Islay. His research interests are the Neolithic period in general and later prehistory in the Cheviots. Both editors are in enforced exile in the 'deep south' working for English Heritage at Cambridge, but do slip their shackles each summer to work on the long running NAG project on Wether Hill

which is focussing upon the multi-period landscape surrounding the impressive bivallate hillfort.

The new editors would like to thank their predecessor, Paul Frodsham, for his sterling work on preceding volumes of NA and for collecting some of the contributions published in the present volume.

Editorial policy.

The new editors would like to continue to encourage contributions of original fieldwork or research of *any* period,

particularly from northern Britain. It is planned to publish NA as regularly as contributions will allow.

For interim reports, or correspondence, then NAGNews continues to be an organ available for all members to use. Contributions to either publication should be sent to:

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